



Catholic Education Office
Archdiocese of Melbourne

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CIRCULAR TO PRINCIPALS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

eSmart – Expression of Interest

MAIN POINTS

- eSmart has been specifically designed for Australian schools to guide and support you to implement an effective system to deal with bullying, Cyberbullying and Cybersafety whilst embracing the smart, safe and responsible use of technology. It is a system that equips the whole school community with the necessary skills and knowledge to implement relevant policies and practices, and to sustain them.
- eSmart has been endorsed by CEOM to support schools in ICON in the area of Cybersafety, specifically for policy development and curriculum.
- The Alannah and Madeline Foundation is offering eSmart to Catholic schools at a cost of \$3500 over 4 years. Schools who participate in this initiative will pay \$875 per year for the four years.
- eSmart will be rolled out to Victorian schools in a staged approach over the next 3 years with intakes each semester.

By participating in eSmart, your school will be supported for four years with:

- an international best-practice system for implementing a whole-school approach to Cybersafety and wellbeing based on a framework encompassing six domains (effective school organisation; school plans, policies and procedures; respectful and caring school community, effective teacher practices; an eSmart curriculum; and partnerships with parents and the local community);
- evidence-based strategies and approaches that have been proven to work;
- a dedicated website providing a central point for all the curriculum, resources, best practice information and case studies you need;
- an online system to record, track and report to your school community on your progress in becoming an eSmart school;
- a starter pack explaining the eSmart system in detail;
- training and professional learning for staff;
- dedicated telephone and email help desk support (Monday to Friday 8am-5pm, AEST);
- fortnightly electronic newsletters keeping you up-to-date with current issues; and
- upon meeting the criteria, certificates and external signage promoting your eSmart status.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Schools can register an expression of interest online at:
<<http://www.amf.org.au/eSmart>>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Schools that have an SES score of 96 or below will be funded to participate in eSmart under the Victorian Government's 'Stamp Out Bullying' plan. A letter will be sent in the next week notifying eligible schools of this.

CONTACT/ENQUIRIES

- For further information please see the attached information sheet or contact the Alannah and Madeline Foundation on 1300 592 151 or Ms Bronwyn Egan, Student Wellbeing Unit, CEOM, phone 9267 0228 or email <began@ceomelb.catholic.edu.au>.



Stephen Elder
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Attach.

eSmart - a system for cybersafety and wellbeing for schools

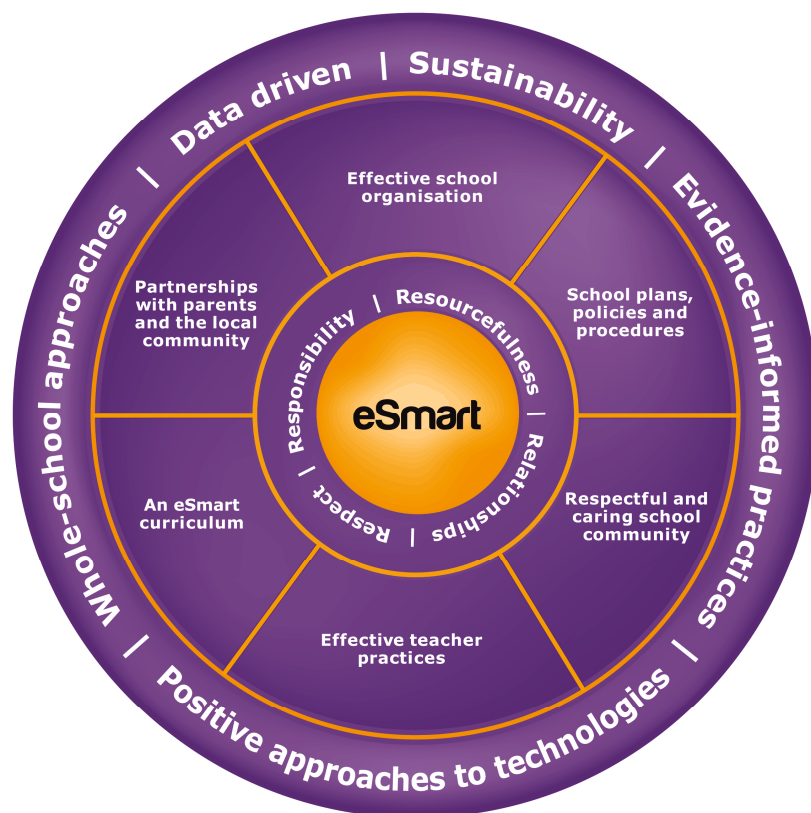
Why does your school need eSmart?

Cybersafety and bullying are major issues for the whole school community – incidents can have far-reaching impacts, involving students, teachers and parents. Every day around the country, children are at risk of the devastating effect of bullying and other serious cyber-risks on their future. Cyberbullying is the most common cybersafety issue schools have to deal with, however other issues such as 'sexting' are becoming more prevalent.

- Research in schools identified eSmart as an effective **road map to guide schools** on how to deal with bullying and cybersafety; the missing piece to navigate through the plethora of available resources.
- eSmart is not another program, curriculum resource, or checklist. It is **a system for developing and sustaining a whole-school approach to cybersafety based on world's best practice.**
- Through the web-based portal, we **save teachers and administrators time by providing direct access to the resources** they need to create a cyber-safe environment and the relevant context for their use.
- eSmart has been specifically **designed by educators for Australian schools**, with input from cybersafety, wellbeing and industry experts. It encompasses six domains of action (see model below), and is **underpinned by the smart use of digital technologies for engagement and learning.**
- eSmart is **a flexible system** schools can adapt for their own specific needs, whether primary, secondary, metropolitan or country, government, independent or Catholic.
- eSmart provides useful **gap analysis** for schools that have already done lots on cybersafety, and guidance to those that are still in the beginning stages.
- eSmart schools will be able **to demonstrate they are doing all they can reasonably do** to create a positive school culture and protect children from cyber risks, and in particular, to address bullying and cyberbullying.

To register your interest in becoming an eSmart school, visit www.amf.org.au/eSmart and complete the online form.

- The eSmart web portal provides your school a **record of your activities and tracks your progress** in becoming eSmart. It provides evidence that the school is actively implementing the policies and policies and practices for smart, safe and responsible use of technology. The **online record** also ensures staff turnover doesn't result in loss of knowledge of the school's eSmart journey.
- eSmart status is **audited regularly** and retained by continuing to conduct best practice approaches to cybersafety and wellbeing with guidance and support from the eSmart system. eSmart provides scaffolding for continuous improvement in cybersafety.
- The eSmart system is complementary to, and can assist your school to **implement large** parts of the new National Safe Schools Framework. All state and territory, and all education systems' policies and guidelines are enacted and embedded through the eSmart system – **ensuring no time-wasting duplication of effort.**



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The support your school will receive

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation's eSmart team has extensive experience in schools and the education system. eSmart has been designed to include the information, resources and support schools need to successfully implement cybersafety and wellbeing activity.

The eSmart team supports your journey to becoming eSmart by providing:

- full access to the eSmart help desk, Mon-Fri 8am-5pm during school term
- face to face and online training in the eSmart schools framework and operating the eSmart system
- starter pack, with detailed information on the eSmart system and outlining the steps to your school achieving eSmart status
- opportunity to participate in webinars and other forums
- fortnightly electronic newsletter
- practice advice sheets
- secure login to the web portal where you can record and track your own progress towards becoming eSmart and maintaining eSmart status
- an external eSmart sign to display your eSmart status (upon meeting the criteria), and certificates to acknowledge achieving milestones along the way.

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Testimonials from schools in the National Pilot of eSmart

"The National Pilot assisted our school in becoming eSmart in terms of staff, students, parents and the community through the excellent professional learning, the support of the AMF eSmart team and brilliant website.

From the beginning I kept our staff and parent/carer community informed of what we were doing in the pilot/trial. Our students have had explicit teaching in cybersafety facilitated by our ICT co-ordinator, and staff have had one-on-one time with him to unpack cybersafety and their responsibility in delivering the teaching in their classrooms.

The newsletter has been a great tool for all staff and parents/carers in keeping them up-to-date with where we are at."

Sue Cahill, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Primary School, Victoria

"The National Pilot assisted staff and students to become more aware of the need to be eSmart. Information to parents has been delivered. Staff are more vigilant in monitoring students using technology.

We implemented new policy in regards to mobile phones, initiated monitoring of internet activity by students, and improved staff awareness of ebullying. Some of the highlights of the pilot included improving staff awareness of how ebullying occurs, seeing students respond and now reporting ebullying to staff members and being able to follow up and stop the bullying."

Wayne Austin, Denmark High School, Western Australia

"We have modified the way we plan for, teach and evaluate Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) across the school. We have more comprehensive planning in place and we are striving to better resource our staff in this area.

The highlights for our school have included involving staff who expressed an interest in growing their own knowledge and capabilities, along with designing a better quality curriculum for all of our students.

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation had really considered the needs of schools before going ahead with this program and were certainly willing to listen to feedback along the way. The whole project has been well-resourced and this has allowed our school to make positive gains ... and we have learnt a lot along the way."

Kerry Murrell, Darley Primary School, Victoria

"Providing a professional development forum with other schools to share ideas was very beneficial. The website itself provides a good range of links to supporting resources and the Cybersafety and Wellbeing Initiative [eSmart] planning tools are very helpful in guiding the school steering committee through the process of consultation and implementation of policy to reduce cyberbullying through data-driven evidence of successful outcomes."

Judy Neilson, Deputy Principal, Ferny Grove State High School, Queensland

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